

SENATE BILL NO. 558

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH AND REPRESENTATIVE TUCKER

AN ACT

To enact Chapter 27 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 25:1231 through 1237, and R.S. 36:209(Q); to create the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission; to provide for membership of the commission and its operation; to provide relative to powers, duties, and activities of the commission; to provide relative to funds and property of the commission; to provide for termination of the commission; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 27 of Title 25 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, comprised of R.S. 25:1231 through 1237, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 27. LOUISIANA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

§1231. Declaration of purpose

A. The Legislature of Louisiana hereby recognizes that the year 2012 marks the two hundredth anniversary of Louisiana's attainment of statehood upon its admission by Congress as the eighteenth state in the Union.

B. The legislature further recognizes that, as the state approaches its bicentennial of statehood, it is appropriate to celebrate and commemorate this anniversary through local and statewide observances and activities planned, encouraged, coordinated, and conducted by a commission created for such purpose.

§1232. Louisiana Bicentennial Commission; creation; appointments of members; officers; meetings; domicile

A. The Louisiana Bicentennial Commission, hereafter referred to as the "commission," is hereby created and established in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism for the purpose of leading the state in its commemoration of attaining statehood.

1 B.(1) The commission shall consist of members appointed as follows:

2 (a) Three members appointed by the governor.

3 (b) Three members appointed by the lieutenant governor.

4 (c) Three members appointed by the president of the Senate.

5 (d) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 (2) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. A
8 vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner
9 as the original appointment.

10 (3) All initial appointments to the board shall be made by July 31, 2010.

11 (4) The twelve members of the commission shall be appointed in such
12 a manner that at least one member shall be from each congressional district in
13 the state of Louisiana as each such district exists on the effective date of this
14 Paragraph. In addition, the appointing authorities shall make such
15 appointments in such manner as to assure that the commission membership
16 shall reflect as nearly as possible a cross section of the race, gender, and
17 economic status of the state's population.

18 C. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice
19 chairman, and other officers, and may employ such staff as they deem necessary
20 for the efficient operation of the business of the commission.

21 D. The members of the commission shall serve without compensation,
22 but they shall be reimbursed, on a vouchered basis, for actual expenses,
23 including travel expenses, to the extent that funds are made available for such
24 purpose; however, no public funds shall be expended by the commission unless
25 specifically appropriated by the legislature for such purpose.

26 E. The commission shall hold its initial meeting no later than September
27 1, 2010, and thereafter shall meet at least monthly according to a schedule
28 established by it. Special meetings shall be held on call of the chairman or of a
29 quorum of the members of the commission. For all regular or special meetings,
30 the chairman or other members calling the meeting shall give at least seven days

1 notice to the members of the commission of the time and place where the
2 meeting will be held. A majority of the members of the commission shall
3 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business at any regular
4 or special meeting.

5 F. The commission shall be domiciled in Baton Rouge but may hold
6 public meetings elsewhere in the state.

7 §1233. Powers and duties

8 The commission shall:

9 (1) Plan and develop activities appropriate to commemorate the
10 bicentennial of Louisiana's statehood, including a limited number of projects
11 to be undertaken by the state seeking to harmonize and balance the important
12 goals of ceremony and celebration with the equally important goals of
13 scholarship and education.

14 (2) Encourage private organizations and local governments to organize
15 and participate in bicentennial activities commemorating and examining the
16 historic events associated with Louisiana's statehood.

17 (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for collecting and disseminating information
18 about bicentennial events and plans in the state.

19 (4) Cooperate and coordinate with any similar commission created by
20 the United States government or any other state in preparing to commemorate
21 and celebrate this important historical event.

22 (5) Encourage state agencies to develop bicentennial programs such as
23 the creation of commemorative automobile license plates and public programs
24 in state and local parks, museums, and libraries.

25 (6) Seek cooperation, advice, and assistance from both private and
26 governmental agencies and organizations, including local governments, learned
27 societies, academic institutions, and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic,
28 and professional groups and associations.

29 (7) Adopt rules and regulations regarding the use of any logos, symbols,
30 or marks originated under authority of and certified by the commission for use

1 in connection with the state commemoration of the bicentennial, or any
2 facsimile thereof.

3 §1234. Funding; donations and grants

4 The commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of any private or
5 public funds in the form of donations of money, grants, property, or personal
6 services from individuals, corporations, and governments for such purposes, all
7 in accordance with R.S. 36:810 and this Chapter. The office of management
8 and finance of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism may adopt
9 any necessary rules or procedures for determining the value of donations to the
10 commission. The commission shall, by April 1, 2011, present to the Joint
11 Legislative Committee on the Budget a master plan outlining the goals,
12 objectives, and performance indicators of the commission for the duration of its
13 existence, which shall include projected expenditures of the commission.

14 §1235. Annual report

15 The commission shall submit an annual report to the lieutenant
16 governor, the president of the Senate, and the speaker of the House of
17 Representatives. Such report shall be submitted no later than sixty days prior
18 to the beginning of the regular session of the legislature in 2011 and 2012. The
19 report shall include specific recommendations and plans for commemorating
20 and coordinating the bicentennial and related activities.

21 §1236. Cooperation by other state entities

22 All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, officers, and institutions
23 of the state and all subdivisions thereof shall cooperate with the commission in
24 carrying out the purposes of this Chapter.

25 §1237. Termination of commission

26 The commission shall terminate on December 31, 2012.

27 Section 2. R.S. 36:209(Q) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

28 §209. Transfer of boards, commissions, departments, and agencies to Department of
29 Culture, Recreation and Tourism

30 * * *

1 **Q. The Louisiana Bicentennial Commission, R.S. 25:1231-1237, shall be**
2 **placed within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism as provided**
3 **for agencies transferred in accordance with R.S. 36:802.**

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5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
9 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____